



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR **NEWS RELEASE**

City of Seattle

**Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor**

*For Immediate Release:* August 29, 2009

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### **Mayor awards \$1.3 million for neighborhood projects**

*Seattle Department of Neighborhoods hosts celebration for community organizations*

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels today announced 19 neighborhood projects that will receive more than \$1.3 million in matching funds from the Department of Neighborhoods. The money will support projects across the city as diverse as public art, parks improvements and youth development. A ceremony and celebration was held for the award recipients at the North Seattle Boys and Girls Club.

“These awards recognize the dedication and hard work of community members working together to improve their neighborhoods,” said Nickels. “From youth leadership programs to wetland restoration, these projects will truly make a difference in people’s lives.”

The Department of Neighborhoods’ Large Projects Fund annually provides cash awards of up to \$100,000 to neighborhood organizations committed to building a better community. The funding is matched by locally raised money, donated materials, and volunteer labor. The 2009 awards range from \$28,000 to \$100,000 and communities have pledged to match the city’s \$1.3 million contribution with resources valued at nearly \$1.9 million. For a listing of the 2009 award recipients, visit <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/2009LPFAwardsList.pdf>.

“Especially in tough economic times like these, the incredible value to our city that Neighborhood Matching Fund projects provides comes to light,” said Stella Chao, director of the Department of Neighborhoods. “Community volunteers invest \$1.52 of donations and sweat equity for every \$1 of taxpayer support. What a deal for on-going improvements in our neighborhoods! What wonderful neighbors! What a wonderful city!

Since the program was created 21 years ago, the Neighborhood Matching Fund has awarded over \$42 million with a community match of more than \$64 million. Projects have involved nearly 65,000 volunteers who have donated over 400,000 work hours. To learn more about the Fund, visit [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/).

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